

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1. - 14. (canceled).

Claim 15 (new): An image reading apparatus that includes an LED array in which a plurality of LED blocks are arranged in parallel with each other, each of the plurality of LED blocks including a plurality of LEDs connected in series with each other, and a drive control means which performs constant-voltage drive control on the LED array and that scans a document, the image reading apparatus comprising:

current-detecting means which detects a current running in the LED array, the current-detecting means being drive-controlled by the drive control means; and

determining means which compares a current value detected by the current-detecting means with a predetermined current threshold and for determining that scanning is to be permitted or prohibited on the basis of a comparison result,

wherein if no current is detected by the current-detecting means, if the detected current value exceeds the predetermined current threshold, or if the detected current value does not exceed the predetermined current threshold and a predetermined number of LED blocks including a faulty LED are aligned, the determining means determines that scanning is to be prohibited, and

wherein if the detected current value does not exceed the predetermined current threshold and the predetermined number of LED blocks including a faulty LED are not aligned, the determining means determines that scanning is to be permitted.

Claim 16. (new): The image reading apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein when a power supply is turned on, the determining means operates before adjustment such as an analog process or shading correction.

Claim 17. (new): An image reading apparatus that includes an LED array in which a plurality of LED blocks are arranged in parallel with each other, each of the plurality of LED blocks including a plurality of LED elements connected in series with each other, and a drive control means for performing constant-voltage drive control on the LED array and that scans a document, the image reading apparatus comprising:

detecting means which detects failure of the LED elements in each of the LED blocks; and

control means which prohibits a reading operation if an LED block adjacent to an LED block where the detection means has detected any faulty LED elements has any faulty LED elements and for permitting the reading operation unless the LED block adjacent to the LED block where the detection means has detected any faulty LED elements has any faulty LED elements.

Claim 18. (new): The image reading apparatus according to Claim 17, further comprising failure number detection means that acquires the number of faulty LED elements in each LED block, wherein the control means prohibits the reading operation if the failure number detecting means has detected more than a predetermined number of faulty LED elements in the LED block.

Claim 19. (new): The image reading apparatus according to Claim 17, further comprising display means which displays an LED-array failure warning thereon when the reading operation is prohibited by the control means.